

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) operates three types of train service: Light Rail, Metro Subway and MARC Trains. Our trains and train tracks often share the roadway with cars, motorcyclists, bicyclists, and heavy pedestrian traffic. The MTA is committed to providing a secure and safe environment for everyone who uses public transportation and the communities in which we operate. It is important for everyone to understand how to keep our commuter train systems as safe and secure as possible.

## MTA's commuter train systems consist of...

### METRO SUBWAY

- Operates underground, elevated or at ground level and requires tracks that are separated from roadways.
- Powered by a third rail that produces 750 volts of direct electric current.
- Travel at speeds up to 70 miles per hour at a quiet whisper.

### LIGHT RAIL

- Operates at ground-level.
- Powered by overhead electric power lines that generate 750 volts of electricity.
- Can reach top speeds of 50 miles per hour.

### MARC TRAIN

- Travel between 70 to 125 miles per hour.
- Operates with high horsepower locomotives, making MARC locomotives among the most powerful in North America.

## What are safe practices while waiting for a train?

- Look both directions before crossing tracks. Never cross in front of or behind a standing or approaching train.
- Always stand behind the yellow textured warning strips.
- Never stand on or near the tracks. Trains have an overhang and may still hit you even if you are not on the tracks.
- Never step in front of a train, or lean over to flag it down. Trains will only stop at designated stops.
- Walk carefully on platforms. Do not run or play on or near platforms.
- Never run after a moving train.
- Keep away from all overhead or third rail wires that power trains.
- Educate your children about the rules and dangers associated with commuter train travel.
- Always hold your child's hand while waiting for the train.

For more information about MTA services, visit [www.mta.maryland.gov](http://www.mta.maryland.gov) or call **410-539-5000**, toll-free **866-RIDE-MTA**, TTY **410-539-3497**

### Report suspicious activity.

Call 1-800-492-TIPS (8477), 911, or the MTA Police (24/7): 410-454-7720

***Together we can make public transit safe and secure.***

Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor



This document is available in alternate format upon request.

3/10 25K

# MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION COMMUTER TRAIN SERVICE SAFETY AND SECURITY



YOUR RIDE IS HERE.



METRO SUBWAY  
LIGHT RAIL  
MARC TRAIN



# ANY TRACK. ANY DIRECTION. ANY TIME.

## Why is commuter train safety important to you?

Did you know that every two hours a vehicle or pedestrian is struck by a train somewhere in our nation? Or that you are 20 times more likely to die in a vehicle crash with a train than you are to die in a two-vehicle crash? Those are just a few important reasons why the MTA is launching a campaign promoting rail safety. It's important to understand that trains always have the right-of-way, all day and every day! They can approach from any direction, on any track, at any time.



## Did you know...

Trains can't stop as quickly as you can. It takes a light rail train up to 600 feet (that's two football fields) to come to a complete stop.

Train tracks and recreation don't mix. Trains and tracks are not places for partying, pranks, or horseplay. Walking on or near train tracks is illegal and dangerous. The MTA wants you to enjoy your train experience in a responsible way.

Only cross tracks at designated crosswalks. There are clearly marked signs showing you safe areas to cross the tracks.

Cross tracks straight on when riding a bicycle. Cyclists must obey all traffic laws when at grade crossings.

Obey all train traffic signs and signals. They are there for your safety, not as an inconvenience.

## What can you do to assist with train security?

### You can...

- Report all unusual packages, activities, and/or suspicious persons on a train, the tracks or at a station.
- Never enter a construction zone. It is dangerous, and only authorized personnel are allowed there. Being and remaining in construction areas without authorization is considered trespassing.
- Never drive around lowered crossing gates. It is illegal and dangerous. Even if you can't see the train, that doesn't mean it isn't coming.
- Never race a train to a crossing. You will always lose.
- Trespassing on or around tracks is against the law. That means you may be subject to criminal prosecution for being and remaining on or near the track without authorization.

## Why is commuter train security awareness everyone's responsibility?

In recent years, we have witnessed attacks that have resulted in the loss of lives and physical and emotional disruption of countless communities. Commuter train security awareness is everyone's responsibility because it assists our local transportation agencies and law enforcement partners in preventing dangerous or even deadly incidents on public transportation.

